

PAPUA NEW GUINEA CALLING

Official Journal of Papuan Philatelic Society

* The font used in the banner is inspired by the corporate letterhead used by Burns Philp & Company Limited, a trading and shipping company whose history is intimately intertwined with PNG and the wider Pacific region.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear PPS members,

2022 here already! Wow, the last few years have gone fast and most of it spent in some form of a lockdown which has put a stop to most stamp shows and club meetings around the world. However, it now seems after such a long time that we now must live with Covid and get on with our lives. This said, and mainly of interest to our Australian members, is that finally we have a real live stamp show on again. The Canberra show is defiantly going ahead - details below:

Canberra Stamp show 2022, the twenty-second Biennial National Philatelic Convention staged by the Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc, will be held at Thoroughbred Park, 1 Randwick Road, Lyneham, Canberra on 18-20 March 2022

Just a reminder to all members that it's that time of the year again for membership renewals. Lorraine and Richard will be sending a reminder that we still have a few free Croaker books available for new members and renewing members that have not already taken up the offer. Be aware that these books do retail on eBay and other sites up to \$50.00 each for second-hand ones. Ours are in brand new never-read condition so it really is a good deal.

We welcome our newest member Mr John Ackerman and thank him for coming in strong with a fantastic contribution to the journal titled "The Spanish Block" that can be found on pages 3 and 4. Hope we see more of these from John who I know for a fact has a great understanding of the Bi-colour Lakatoi issues.

I am pleased to spread the word that a fantastic collection of Lakatois will be auctioned in March at Argyll Etkin in the UK so for those interested keep a look out for it. There are some very rare pieces and one-of-a-kind items going under the hammer and NO, it's not my collection.

As always, a call out for more articles for the journal as they are always wanted. We may not publish them straight away, yet we do require stock for future editions so don't be shy. We are always happy to receive questions on items that you collect and can add them to the journal so that other members can respond.

*Cheers!
Mark (Robbo) Robinson*

PPS Chairman (Australia)



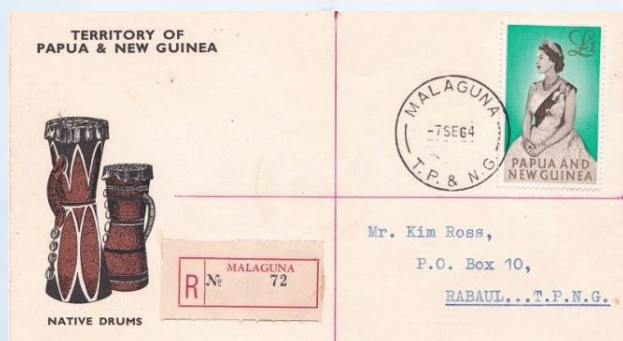
Chairman's symbol:
A 1930s Sepik
Orator's Stool (Teket)*.
Museum of Victoria



TPNG ENVELOPES

By Syd Dikes (Australia)

In the mid 1960's a series of covers "Territory of Papua & New Guinea" were put out depicting various PNG artifacts. Does anyone know who put them out, and are there any others in this series than shown below. (replies to Editor please: richard@muller.id.au)



CORRECTION

In the last issue (Dec 2021) there were a couple of errors in Sid Dikes' "Faith in Australia" article. The Editors note under the title should not have been there. It was pasted in from a previous article. Also, the Figure numbers were incorrect. Hopefully, readers would have been able to connect the pic with the relevant text. Apologies.

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THE SPANISH BLOCK

By John Ackermen (Australia)

In 1930, some stock of Papua 3d bicolour lakatois was overprinted in carmine with a plane design carrying the words "AIR MAIL". Almost all of the sheets used were Ash printings, and the resulting stamp, SG118, is very common. However, two of the sheets issued were older, Harrison, printings. These are distinguishable from Ash in several different ways, and the resulting stamp, SG115, is very rare. In 2015 a block of 6 was sold on Ebay as part of a group lot by a Spanish seller. This may be the largest extant block of this stamp. It merits closer study, if for no other reason than that it would be a pity to miss another one! The Block



SG115 block of 6, positions 1-12



SG98c block of 6, positions 1-12

How can we recognise the block at left as Harrison, while the one on the right is Ash? Gibbons suggests looking at the paper, describing Harrison printings as being on "yellowish" paper, while Ash printings are on white, but warns that climatic toning can confuse the picture. I have never found the shade of the paper to be a reliable indicator, but certainly this block is on yellowish paper. As is the Ash block beside it. The shade of the vignette (the central design) is another identifier, but still subject to distortion by both ageing and scanner variation. The vignette is described in Gibbons as "sepia-black" i.e. black with a hint of brown. I find that completely unreliable as an identifier, and

PAPUAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Papuan Philatelic Society (PPS) membership is open to anyone who collects or has an interest in the stamps and postal history of 'Papua New Guinea'. The PPS covers all periods from the early days of British New Guinea (later Papua) and German New Guinea in the 1880's, to modern PNG with its many colourful stamps and cards.

The membership is international with links in Australia, USA, UK & Europe, New Zealand and PNG itself. It is one of the strongest and most active philatelic societies.

For information about joining the PPS, please contact us at papuanphilatelicsociety@gmail.com

THE SPANISH BLOCK (cont)

this block demonstrates that fact well – I would describe most of the vignettes as black, and the others as climatically-toned black. To me, they all look blacker than the vignettes of the six Ash stamps. With practice, it is possible to recognise Harrison printings by the shade of the frame (the outer part of the design) and I suspect this is the criterion given most weight by expertisers. But it does take practice.

As someone who is scientifically-trained, I try to shy away from opinion. I like cold, hard, facts. As such, one of my interests (I like to think it's my super power, but the term "idiot savant" has been used) is plating bicolour lakatoi stamps. These stamps were printed in sheets of 40 and each printer only used one plate at a time (bearing in mind that the vignette and frame were printed on the page separately, a two-part process). Small variations in the frame and vignette mean that it is possible to look at a stamp today and

99.9% of the time tell which position it occupied on the original sheet. More importantly in relation to this block, it is possible to distinguish Harrison and Ash printings. With certainty.

It's the Vignette, Stupid!

Mostly that is because they used different vignettes. In the life of the bicolour printings three different vignettes were used – VE1 by Cooke and Harrison, VE2 by Harrison, and VE3 by Harrison, Mullett and Ash.



The "Rift" flaw

Harrison used VE2 for his 3d printing, while Ash used VE3.

I accept that not everyone has access to scans of lakatoi sheets for reference purpose, but one plateable flaw of the Ash vignette is quite well-known – the "Rift" flaw at position 2.

You can see that flaw in the top right stamp of the Ash block:

This oblique white line in the upper vignette



SG113, position 25

is present in all VE3 printings i.e. the last two Harrison printings of the 1d (SG94bw and 94c), the single Mullett printing (the 1½d, SG95b), and all Ash printings (though Ash did retouch it, with varying success). It is clearly NOT present in the block at left.

One other general characteristic of Harrison 3d printings is worth recognising: the vignette is often somewhat shrunken, with indistinct edges, as seen in the example of SG113 (position 25):

Unfortunately that appearance tends to be most obvious in stamps from the right side of the plate, so doesn't help us here.

Perhaps the take-home message from my discussion of this lovely block of stamps is this: even now, a century after these stamps were printed, new discoveries are being made on a regular basis.

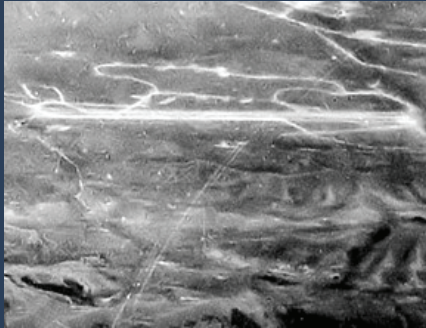
WWII Crash Mail

By Brian Peace (UK)

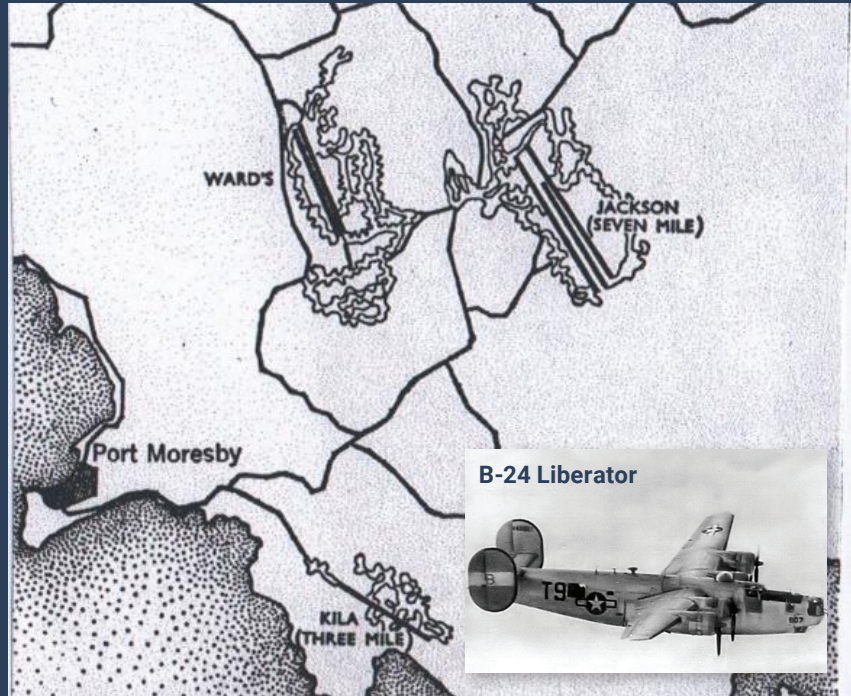
(Ed: Brian mentions he has been a member for 56 years – not the longest membership – but shows even an ‘old-timer’ can contribute an interesting item for the journal)

B-24 Liberator crashed at Port Moresby, Papua in bad weather

Also known as FIVE MILE. Jackson airfield was known as SEVEN MILE, these alternative names denoting the distance by road from Port Moresby Central Business District.



Ward's Strip Airfield 5 miles from Port Moresby



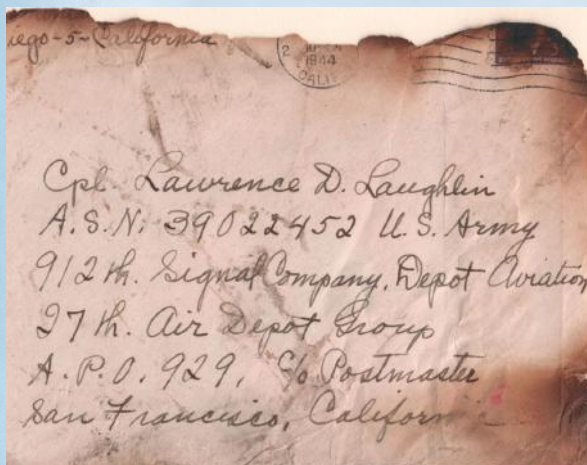
On 12 March 1944, Consolidated B-24J-80-CO Liberator of the USAF crashed on approach to Ward's Strip Airfield, Port Moresby, in bad weather. The aircraft caught fire and was destroyed. There were no survivors

The mail for US Forces was recovered in a partially charred state, treated and forwarded.

This is the only example recorded by the author.



This photo shows the Headquarters of V-Mail in the centre with the Postal preparation building on the right. Directly behind the HQ building is the Paper Processing Department and the Post Office APO 929 is at the left Port Moresby, Papua 1944



Cancelled SAN DIEGO FEB 1944 bearing manuscript endorsement on the reverse APO 929 was based at Port Moresby.

References:

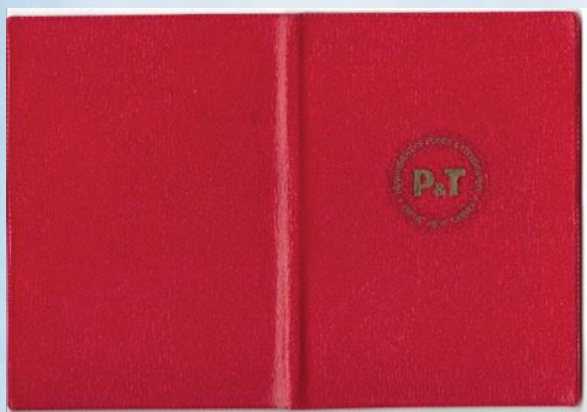
- Peace, Brian: Papua New Guinea Calling Dec 1993 p19
- Nierinck, Henri: Recovered Mail Vol 2 p169
- Humphreys, Ken: Port Moresby Airstrips 1928-1975, ACCNSW Bulletin Dec 2003 pp185-187
- Fysh, Hudson: Qantas at War, Angus & Robertson, 1968, pp181, 199
- Audsley, Peter C Auctions: Apr 1993 Lot 65

PNG PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

By Steve Zirinsky (US)

(Ed: Here is something really from 'left field' – yes, not at all philatelic but an interesting conversation starter – replies to Editor please: richard@muller.id.au)

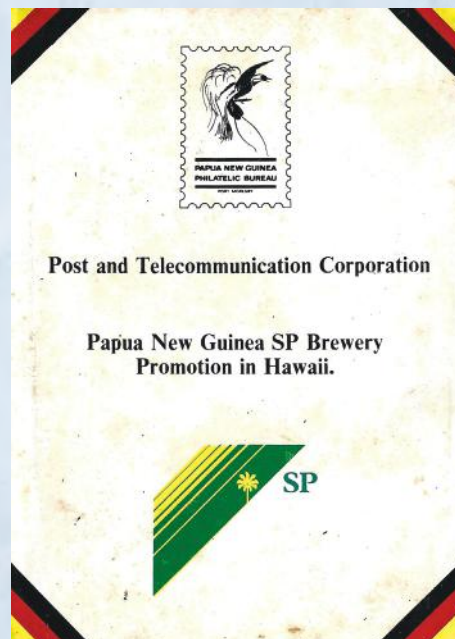
I was wondering if there was anything written on PNG promotional material- not so much the brochures, but pretty much anything else.



As for the match book- I got it at the same time I got my interpex stamp booklet- from the Papua Post Office table at the Interpex show...there was a stack of 100 booklets (well maybe 90 as some had sold) along with these matches. I have no idea why I took it, I didn't smoke, perhaps for the stamp images... (Ed: glad he did!)



I was in Honolulu in July (2021), and I went through the only stamp dealer left in the state! He had tons of stuff that hasn't seen the light of day as it is all isolated there. And in the last book behind the last folder were two of these. I hadn't seen this presentation folder before - neither has Wolfgang Hoelzel nor William Carson....I did discuss it with Doug Spencer (Ed: see Doug's article on 'Red Presentation Booklets' in the Sept 2021 issue). I suggest that 100 were printed.



AN ITEM FROM THE PAST

By Jeff Marks (Australia)

NOTICE.

TIME TABLE FOR OVERLAND MAIL.

PORT MORESBY TO KOKODA.

LETTERS to be at Post Office on previous day not later than 3 p.m.

YEAR 1911.

Date of Departure :

3rd January	4th July
17th January	18th July
31st January	1st August
14th February	15th August
28th February	29th August
14th March	12th September
11th April	10th October
25th April	24th October
9th May	7th November
23rd May	21st November
6th June	5th December
20th June	19th December

LEO E. GORS,
Acting Chief Postmaster.

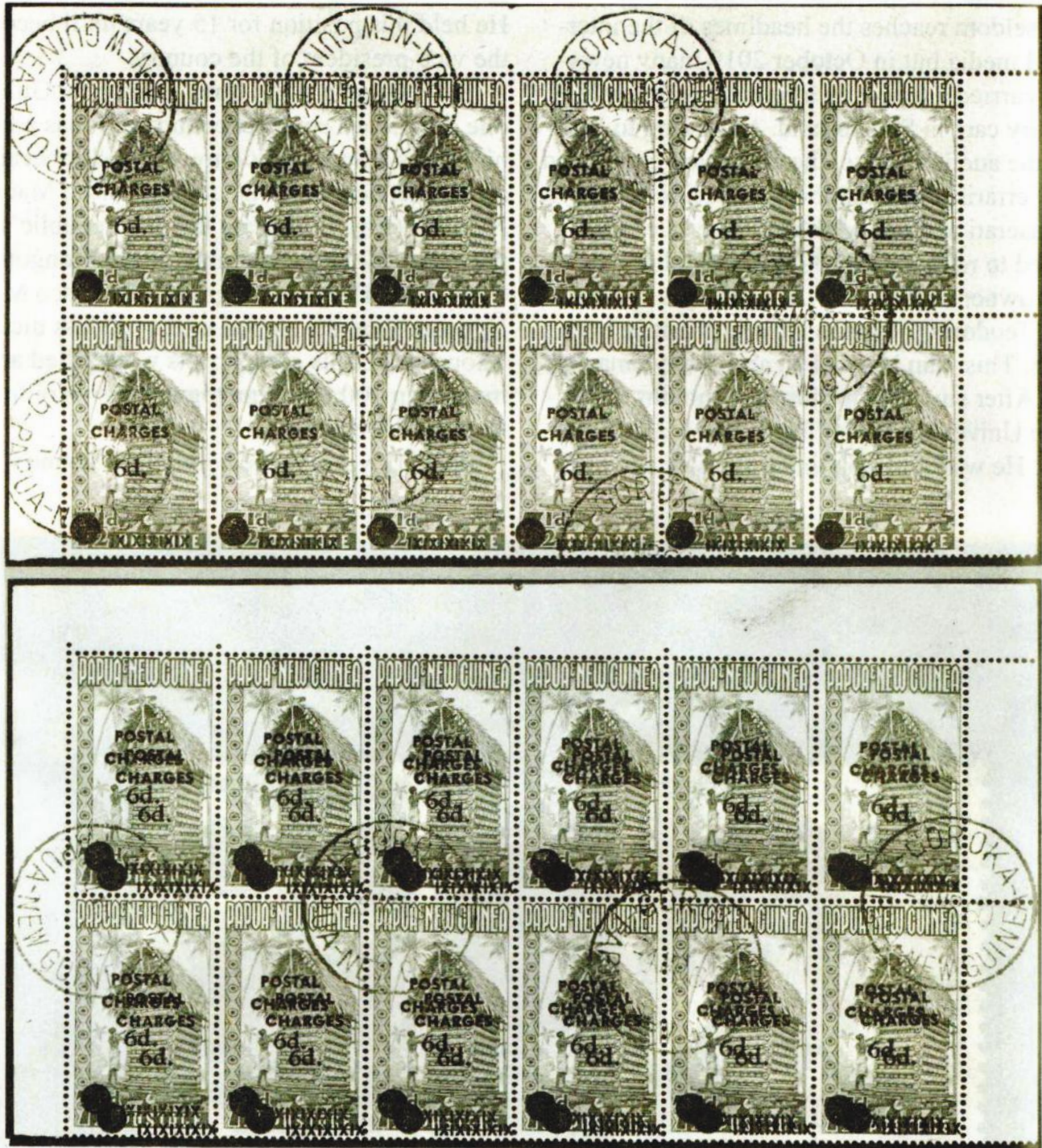
The General Post Office,
Port Moresby, 3rd Jan., 1911..

Papua Government Gazette V6 N2 1st February 1911 p11

WHAT WOULD IT BE WORTH IN TODAY'S MARKET?

These pics are from a Rod Perry article some years ago, reflecting on changes in market value of various items. He referred to these matching cancelled-to-order blocks of PNG D1 and D1a. In the past it sold for \$26,400. What do you reckon it would go for today?

(send your replies to Ed: richard@muller.id.au)



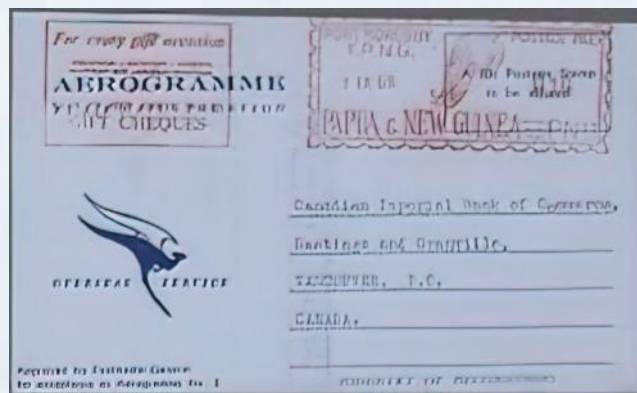
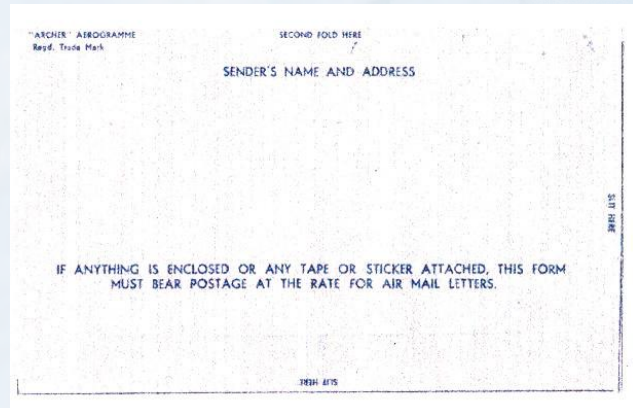
PNG PRIVATE LICENCE AEROGRAMMES¹ (Part 5)

By Richard Peck (Australia)

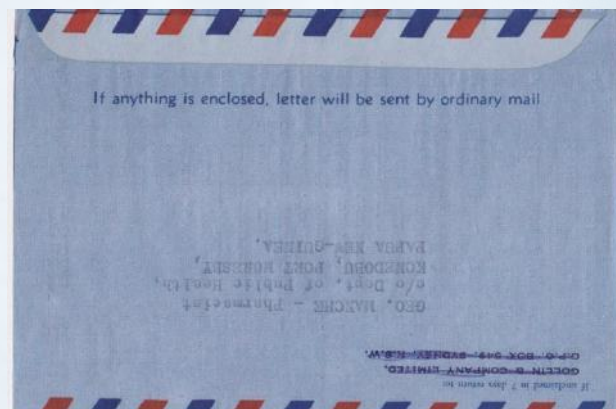
(Ed: This is the final installment of a very lengthy study over several issues.
You can also contact 'rcp359@gmail.com' for details on how to obtain the entire study)

Australian types used in TPNG/PNG

Australian Licence 2 (Blake & Hargraves, Sydney)



Australian Licence 9 (Gollin & Co Ltd)



¹ Based on a list originally published in PNG Calling 1974. Note however that philatelists often used aerogrammes which bear sets of stamps, not necessarily at the correct rate. My thanks to Joan Orr and Wolfgang Holzl for additions. Provided free from rcp359@gmail.com to whom additions should be reported. May be published with acknowledgement.

Licence 14 (Qantas)



Private licence aerogrammes are apparently no longer used in Papua New Guinea. They were replaced by faxes, electronic mail and the www.

EXCHANGE STAMPS

(Ed: This is indeed something from 'left field', but we had some extra space, so....)

Hello,

I am from Belgium & I am interested to exchange stamps. I'm looking for stamps of Papua New Guinea & also another countries of Océania ((like Nauru, Solomon Islands, Christmas Island, Fiji, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, ...)) : I miss many stamps.

I give stamps of Belgium, France, Switzerland, Spain, Germany but also almost all European countries and other originating in the world.

Can you ask your members if an exchange interested?

Do you have a journal where you can put this message?

My email: guybarbe@yahoo.fr

or my address : Guy Barbé, 98 rue du Petit Bruxelles
1430 Rebecq, Belgium

Regards
G Barbé

FOR SALE

A collection of 80 odd WW2 Censorship covers from New Guinea to sell as a complete collection. This is Max Bulley's collection (86 covers), all mounted on album pages with all of his research notes. An independent inspection says "no doubt it would make a good small exhibit"

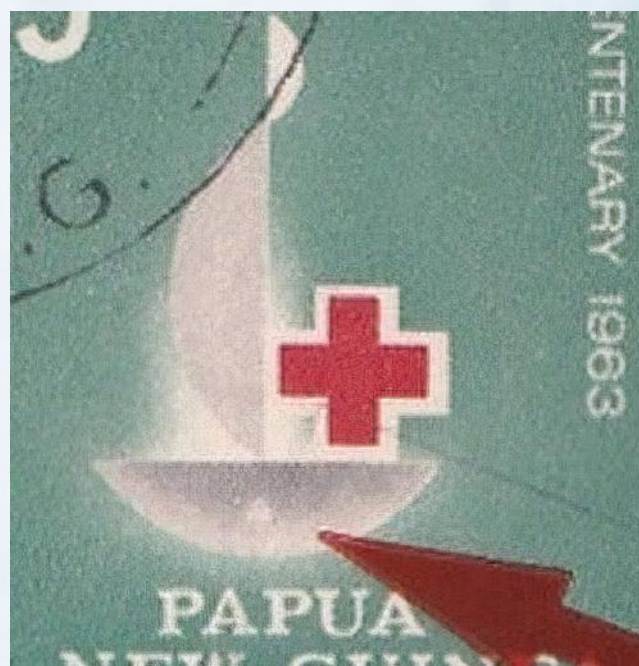
The covers are listed by:

1. Censor No.
2. Postmark
3. Date
4. Franking
5. Label Type
6. Addressee
7. Backstamps and Remarks

For more information, contact Max at:
max.bulley@gmail.com

PNG RED CROSS FLAW *By Sid Dikes (Australia)*

The PNG Red Cross Centenary stamp SG.46 shows a dot flaw in the bowl. It is located at R/5 C/10. However not knowing if there was more than one printing, I cannot confirm if it is constant or not. I am led to believe that it also occurs on the similar Australian Red Cross Centenary stamp SG.351. Any information regarding this flaw would be greatly appreciated (Please reply to Editor: richard@muller.id.au)



HELP WANTED *By Jeff Marks (Australia)*

A study is being conducted by the PPS on the following two stamps with watermark sideways - Papua SG70 and SGO25.



For many years, reference has been made to the 2nd consignment of stamps to Port Moresby including 436 sheets of the 6d sideways watermark (ie SG64/SG70) and either Rosenblum's: *".. a very few sheets, of which all but two (60 stamps) appear to have been perforated ..."* or Croaker's: *"... In this case, very few sheets were perforated 12½, and all, it is thought, but two of these were punctured "OS". This makes the 6d sideways watermark perf. 12½ one of the rarities of Papua, especially if not punctured "OS". ..."*

The study has thus far confirmed the existence of two sheets of SG70 with two known copies of position 11. Only one of these has the watermark

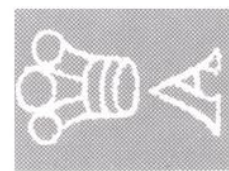
direction known. Most catalogue descriptions reference either Rosenblum or, especially, Croaker but unfortunately do not specify the watermark direction, so these are not as helpful as desired.



We encourage members with these particular stamps in their collection to help out with the study by contributing better quality images (perhaps 300-600 dpi) along with a description of the watermark, as viewed from the back ie. Crown to left of 'A' or Crown to right of 'A'.

All contributions can be forwarded to papuanphilatelicsociety@gmail.com and will be treated with the utmost discretion.

Normal



PNG Stamp News Jan 1962

(Ed: there have been a number of comments that there is a vast store of (now forgotten) information in many of the back issues. So, going back some 60 years, here is an article that may be of interest. I've had a quick scan of back issues and in the race to get this current issue out, have not been able to identify who the author was. Hope you enjoy this gem from the past)

P.N.G. STAMP NEWS - Jan 1962 - Page 2.

Forged Stamps of New Guinea.

When the world reference collection of forgeries formed by G.P. Bainbridge of Canada was auctioned by Robson Lowe recently, I was fortunate to purchase Lot 83 which contained the four "Panelli" forgeries. The stamps concerned are the £1 Hut and the £1, £2 and £5 Bulolo Airmails.

These stamps have now arrived from England and the following comments are made for the assistance of collectors who may not be aware that forgeries exist of the above stamps.

£1 Hut Design - The perforation is exact to the issued stamp, but the length of the design is a bare 31mm compared with 31½mm for the genuine stamp. The letter "S" of "POSTAGE" is rather weak and the £ sign is very poor. However, it is the colouring which betrays the forgery as it is nearer that of the 4d value than the issued £1 stamp. There are other small differences but those mentioned are the main ones.

£1 Bulolo Design - In all the Bulolo forgeries the perfs agree with genuine specimens. The design has a coarse appearance and not the clarity of detail of the Bulolo Valley as seen on the real stamps. Once again it is the colour that gives the forgery away, the forgery being in a sickly light olive green in which the green tinge is most prominent, much about the same colour as the forged £1 Hut stamp.

£2 Bulolo Goldfields - To my way of thinking this is the best of the four forgeries, the clarity of detail is better but again the forger did not take much pains to match the colour. Whereas the original stamps are printed in quite a deep violet (described by Gibbons as bright violet), the forgery is in a very pale violet which has a "washed out" appearance.

£5. Bulolo Goldfields - Here we have another very coarse design with far too much sky shading. The shading behind the words "NEW GUINEA" is heavy and gives the appearance of a very strong retouch. The inner vertical frame consists of two lines whereas the genuine stamp has three lines for this frame. But apart from these differences it is the colour that is the best check. There is no sign of the emerald green of the genuine article, I would call the forgery a deep olive-green.

NB. Both the £2 and £5 forgeries also have forged postmarks.

I understand these were the only four New Guinea stamps which were forged and the forgeries were made in Paris during World War 11 with the intention of victimizing the forces who, though affluent, lacked an outlet for their money.

Some years ago I read in an English Philatelic Paper some notes which described these forgeries as clever and dangerous. At the time I had just purchased a used copy of the £5 Airmail and I wondered whether I had been "caught" or not. Now that I have seen the forgeries I would say they are definitely not dangerous and no collector should have any difficulty "picking" them. I am amazed that after the trouble of preparing a printing plate, the forger did not use a little more trouble to match colours with the genuine stamps.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA CALLING

VIEW OF MANAVAI

By Richard Muller (Australia)

This engraved print was purchased more as a curiosity than with any expectation of philatelic ‘news’. Hopefully the text is legible, “Vue de Manavai”, under the heading “Papua”.



The work is credited to Victor Danvin (1802-1842) and the steel engraving credited to Desault. As far as I can determine, Danvin (in his very short life) probably never left Paris, although his works cover a vast range of Pacific locations. The print appeared in a French compilation published in 1837.

The example I have is clearly a page torn from a book, numbered Plate 227. There is another example in the National Gallery of Australia and similar items seem to come up for sale (ebay or otherwise) now and again. A number of Danvin prints, depicting scenes from Tonga, are listed with the National Library in New Zealand.

And that's where the trail runs cold. I've not found any reference to a place name of 'Manavai' in Papua. I have also not found any reference material on which he might have based his work (pure fantasy?). There is nothing that suggests there would be some knowledge of Papua in the early 1800's, not in Paris anyway!

So, it's an entertaining item, with a rather large puzzle attached to it. Any thoughts or comments would be welcome.